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A D D R E S S

T O T H E

Protestant Dissenters,

From the Establish'd Church of

E N G L A N D,

Especially to those in the

C O U N T R Y.

Relating to the new ELECTION of Persons
to Represent them in PARLIAMENT.

By a *Lover of Truth.*

L O N D O N:

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A Humble
ADDRESS, &c.

My dear Friends, and Fellow-Subjects.



S the Season for the ensuing general Election of Persons to represent you in *Parliament* is drawing on, and as much depends upon the Choice of proper Persons for that Purpose, it is hoped it will not be deem'd any way Criminal, tho' I Address my self to you upon the Occasion. I am not so vain as to imagine my private Sentiments should have any considerable Weight with you; I only ask Leave to speak my Mind

freely, and hope you will seriously consider what I say, and after that determine as you may judge proper. In a free Address to you as Friends, you will not expect Accuracy in the Order, or Excellency in the Language or Style; to set down Things as they occur, and to express my Thoughts with Plainness and Propriety, is all I shall attempt as to these Particulars.

I HAVE been for some time past, a sort of neutral Observer of the party Feuds and Animosities, but too manifest among us; and plainly perceive the Tendency, but dare not say what will be the Consequence of it; as I know that BEING who bounds the Billows of the Sea, can also restrain the madness of the People.

THE Writers for the Opposition, Years past, have talk'd with great Assurance of their having just gain'd their Point, and have limited the fall of the present *M----y* to Seasons long since expir'd. If our *real Patriots* are at all to be outed, and the *pretending Patriots* to get in, the Time for this is now nearer than ever; and, (upon the above Supposition) if they go on to predict the Fall of others, and their own Advancement, they will at last be in the Right; tho' by the way, many Hope this will not be so soon yet as they may imagine.

SHOULD they ever prevail against the C---rt and be hoisted into Power, yet ali wise and honest Men must dislike, and even abhor the Measures they have taken in order thereunto. The vilest Methods they have used, the basest Measures persued, and the most infamous Instruments employ-ed, to serve their Purposes and Designs. They have publish'd notorious Untruths, falsify'd Histories, and multiplied Mis-re-presentations of Persons and of Things: They have dealt out Defamation, Scandal, and personal Abuse, with a liberal Hand ;--- Have not spared to reproach the K----, or scarce the R--y--l F--m--ly.---- I will not answer for all the Persons, that may at any Time have appeared in the *Craftsman*, the *Common-Sense* Papers, or even the *Cham-pion*; but I will venture to say,---Such are the known Characters of the Writers of these several Papers, as might be suppos'd sufficient to ruin any Cause they should ever espouse, unless it be that of our *Patriots*: And if their true Characters fail of having the happy Effect, of frustrating the Hopes and raised Expectations of their *Patrons*, it will be a standing Evidence to that depth of Indolence and Insensibility the Nation at this Time is sunk into.

IT will be allow'd,---let a Man's Prin-ciples, or personal Character be what they will,

will, he may yet speak and write Truth;---and that Truth for its own sake, deserves Regard, from whomsoever it may come: But yet let me ask,---Does it not clash with every Man's Reason, nay, run counter to the Common-sense and Apprehension of *Englishmen*, to imagine that, (for Instance) An *Irish Papist*,---an *Emissary* of Rome, and a fast *Friend* to the *Pretender*, can possibly be in earnest, while he pretends to write for *British Liberty*, and the Good of our *Country*?----I have not Words sufficient to describe the amazing Stupidity, Folly, and Credulity of those *Englishmen* and *Protestants*, who can with Patience and Pleasure, give their Attention to Writers undeniably base in their *Morals*, their *Principles*, and *Designs*: And it requires a great stock and stretch of Charity, to suppose their *Chiefs* and *Leaders* mean honourably and well, whilst they continue to use and countenance such base Wretches, such monsters of Men, as any Person of Reputation would be ashamed to converse with *. But I will wave farther Enlarge-
ment

* We should readily suspect that Master was not strictly honest, who should employ *declared, abandoned Villains* in his Service.—And the Proverb says, *Like Master, like Man.* But some may be ready to say—Sure our virtuous *Patriots* can never retain and employ such scurrilous *Scribes*, that must reflect Dishonour upon their glorious Cause, and ren-
de

ment upon this particular, and come more directly to what I design.

I DOUBT not but many of you have been already solicited for your Votes; yet I hope you have not been forward to engage your selves, without suitable Deliberation and Thought, upon a Matter of such moment and mighty Importance.

SOME of these Solicitors and Candidates hope to strengthen themselves, by declaring they set up in *the Country Interest*: I have my Dwelling indeed in the Country, and love my Country well; but I freely confess I cannot relish that modish Phrase, [*The Country Interest*] it sounds so harsh and very disagreeable in my Ears. I conceive it is a Distinction at this Time hateful, and dangerous; by the present *Faction* at first renewedly used, and still perpetuated with an evil Design. According to my Conception of Things, it is absolutely impossible the Interest of the *Country* should

der it so liable and likely to miscarry; &c.—Shou'd I see Occasion here-after to add any thing to the present *Address*, as a farther Testimony of Love to my *Country*, under the Apprehension of Danger thereto, I may again touch upon this Topick, however displeasing: At present I shall only say,

—The Representation of these *Writers* contains in it no *Calumny* or *Slander*, but is founded upon *Facts* indisputable, and *Evidence* unanswerable.—In a Word, the Person who has *nothing at Stake*, and *nothing can Lose*, may, if he pleases, venture to play a bold Game; and this is much the Case of our *Patriot Scribes* in point of Reputation.

flourish, if the Interest of the *Court* be against it: Or, rather it is impossible the *true Interest of the Court and the Country*, shou'd be seperated from, much less be in Opposition to each other; since it is undeniably evident, their closest Union and **Conjunction as One**, is the likeliest Method mutually to promote the real Welfare and Prosperity of each. I hope you dislike, are willing to lay aside, and do all you can to discountenance that pernicious Distinction above-mention'd, (till more properly and seasonably applied) by with-holding your *Votes* from all such *Gentlemen*, who in a concealed sort, before hand, proclaim abroad their base and mischievous Intentions *.

SOME of your very humble Servants (upon this Occasion) may perhaps hope to recommend themselves to you, by their strenuous Opposition to the *Convention with Spain*. I forbear to insist on the *Secession*, because I believe the Honourable *Gentlemen* are too much ashame'd of that infamous and unprecedented Step, to attempt a Recommendation of themselves upon it.

* Since the Writing of the above Paragraph, this Matter relating to the *Country Interest* as distinguish'd from that of the *Court*, has been well consider'd as to its *Rise* and its *Use*; and is set in a good Light by a Writer in the *Daily Gazetteer* of Nov. 3. 1740.

A Step, which they in their after Conduct have discover'd a dislike unto *: A Step which the chief Oracle of the Party has sufficiently exposed, and unanswerably censured; but whom they happen'd not to consult upon this Occasion, else they had been better advised. Not (I say) to insist upon this; these Persons may yet value themselves, (and imagine you ought to value them too) on their Opposition to the Convention, with such Virulence and Violence. And it is indeed true, that Measure

* Artful Men may shuffle here, and perhaps deny any dislike of former Proceedings:—Be this as it will, the Actors of that Part are Self-condemned, as they must be out of the way of their Duty, either in *leaving* their Seats in P—t, or in *returning* to them, without having the supposed Grievance remov'd. You ought to know,— These Gentlemen took Pet and *went away*, with a *Resolution* of returning no more, while that pretended Influence prevail'd in the H—se, which they wou'd have you believe, carried the Point, when then depending, against them: But after some Time, when they perceiv'd the National Affairs were carried on *very well* without them; some of the Number it shou'd seem, *repented* and *returned*; and even reproached the wh—le H—se of Repre—t—ves then present, because they wou'd not call in the rest of the *seceding Members*, who were perhaps Men of more Conscience, and greater Fidelity than some others, and stood more upon their *Words*.—A very pretty kind of *Farce* truly these Gentlemen have acted;—’tis pity they shou'd ever lose the Honour of it.—The *Seceders* have said in their own Vindication, —That their Procedure in that Case did produc all the good Effects that cou'd be expected;—I may complement them so highly as to say,—I verily believe that Step was attended with much *better Effects* than they ever proposed to themselves by it, or indeed desired shou'd arise from it.

taken by the *Ministry*, has been represent-ed as a very bad one; a measure infamous, and even destructive to the true Interest of the Nation; and I make no Question but many were sincere in their Opposition to it, as viewing it in a disagreeable Light: But I have not the like Measure of Char-ty for all of them who appeared against it; in as much as many were determined to oppose it, before they saw it, and even condemn'd it, before they well knew what it contain'd.

W^HA^T your Thoughts are relating to the Convention, (as to many of you) I can-not particularly say: If you have only at-tended to what the Enemies to the C----t have said of it, I do not wonder if you are greatly prejudiced against it; and yet at the same Time, you cannot but char-itably believe and conclude, many of those who voted for it were sincere and upright therein; believing it to be, (all Things du-ly consider'd) the best Measure the Case would admit.

I^N almost all Matters disputable, there may be fincerty on both sides: Now sup-posing those Gentlemen who judg'd favour-ably of the *Convention*, were indeed mis-taken, 'tis yet no unpardonable Crime; since many *Men*, are ordinarily of many *Minds* and it is common to all sometimes to err

But the violent Charge against the *Convention*, for ought I ever could conceive, did mainly consist, in false Assertions respecting it; In stretching and misconstruing some Passages contain'd in it; And, some feign'd and fallible Consequents supposed to follow upon it: Remove but these, and the Opposition made thereunto is next to nothing.

LET it be farther consider'd; If the *Convention* were really so disagreeable and disadvantageous a Measure to our selves, as many would have it thought to be; it must surely be an *advantageous* one, with respect to the other Power concern'd; and then, How shall we account for the egregious mis-conduct of his *Catholick Majesty*, in refusing to pay that trifling Sum of Ninety-five Thousand Pounds, which he had stipulated to re-imburse within a limited Time; and by this Refusal, inevitably drew on a War? Would he have thus stood in his own Light, and have acted a Part so notoriously unpopular and imprudent? I believe our Clamours at Home greatly encourag'd hereunto; but still it is to me an incontestible Evidence, that the King of *Spain* did not conceive that Measure and Management on our Part, either so weak or so wicked, as many would represent it; either so disadvantageous to *England*, or beneficial

neficial to *Spain* as the *Patriots* pretend; else he would never have broken through it as he hath done.

IT is unquestionably clear and certain, that *Peace* largely contributes to our true Interest, as a trading People; and also that a War with *Spain* is remarkably detrimental to us, as to that important Particular, our Trade and Commerce: These Things (with others) rightly consider'd, the *Ministry* shew'd a tender and becoming concern for our National Welfare, in attempting all possible Methods to have prevented a Rupture with that Power above-nam'd. Some of the *Patriots* of the Times, from the Beginning of our Difference with *Spain*, have clamour'd aloud for a War; as judging belike, that this would draw off and engage Part of the Attention and Strength of the C---rt abroad, and leave them more at leisure to play their Pranks, and to make their own Game at Home*. Perhaps it will be said; Better we had entered into a War much sooner; I say, per-

* These Sons of *Mars* were set upon it, that it should seem if we had not had War with an Enemy *A broad*, they would have push'd hard for a War at *Home*; and this may appear still to drive at, unless the C---rt and M---y will tamely resign, and give up all into their Hands: And yet perhaps time was when some of these *Heroes* have been bordering upon *Passive Obedience*;— But that Doctrine at present, is no more.

haps so too as Things turn about; but I add, it would have been better still, could we have obtain'd a tolerable Redress for our Grievances, without entering into a War at all; and upon this Ground the *M---ry* stands justified, as to former Proceedings. The Conduct of those in Power, has been of a Piece, in first trying all Means for a peaceable Accommodation of Differences; and when these fail'd by the *Spanish* Monarch's breaking thorough his Engagements, then to proclaim War: Here is no *Change* of Measures but what does naturally and necessarily arise from a well concerted Scheme of Thoughts and Things: Shifting and Shuffling belong to another *set of Men*, however unjustly charg'd to the *M---y*

You will meet with many who will tell you, the Managements of the War hitherto has been visibly and indefensibly faulty. "That War shou'd have been begun sooner, and push'd on with greater Vigour;---- That by this Time we might have conquer'd the *Spanish Indies*, and have over-run *Old-Spain* too;---- Yea, have pluck'd the proud Monarch from his Throne, and have taken Possession of his Kingdom.----In a word, *That our present Rulers know not how to make or manage Peace or War.*" This kind of talk is too Wild and Extravagant to require a sober Reply: The last Clause

Clause thereof I own is become a fashionable Phrase, or celebrated saying with some; a kind of *Patriot Apophthegm*; but by no Means will I answer for the *Truth* of it. Give me leave only to observe,----The Actions of the Great, and particularly of Politicians, often require Time to illustrate them, and furnish vulgar Minds with just Apprehensions of them*: For this Reason, private Person in low Life, at a considerable Distance from Court, and out of the way of polite and political Conversation, (or, which is worse still, in the way only of such as is corrupted and sower'd with the leaven of Malice against Persons in Power; I say, all such as these) shou'd be very cautious, how they rashly censure the Conduct of those who have the Direction and Management of publick Affairs. We many times perceive their Actions, while we are entire Strangers to the Springs of them; and that particular Action, (or a short series of them) may appear to us odd and unaccountable, which, when consider'd as to the Cause, and Connection with other Particulars yet conceal'd, may appear not only consistent with the highest Prudence, but even beautiful in that Place and

* Solomon has intimated, that the *Heart* of a wise King is *unsearchable*?—and I see not but it holds equally true, with respect to a wise M——r of State.

Order: But lest I grow tedious, I will proceed.

SOME Candidates may court your Favour upon this Ground, that they are not *Place-men*, and can vehemently rail at those who are.----Places at *Court* and Pensions under the *Government* have been loudly complain'd of; tho' there has been a Time when many of these Complainants enjoy'd the like themselves, and then they cou'd see nothing amiss in them: And this would be the Case again, if they had them once more in their own Possession. I doubt not but many of you have been favour'd with a sight of that lovely List of *Voters*, for and against the *Convention*; where the Gentlemen in *Places*, and their respective *Salaries*, are very industriously pointed out to you. That *Pamphlet* is plainly a *party*, and a *partial* Performance, publish'd and dispers'd with evil Purposes and Designs. I shall only here remark to you;----All Courts have Places and Offices to dispose of, and I never yet saw the Day when these were fill'd and serv'd *Gratis*: His Majesty has a sure and undoubted Right to choose his *own Servants*, as well as the meanest Master within his Dominions has a Right to choose his: And pray, who shou'd the King choose to serve him, his Friends, or his Enemies? Would any Ma-

ster upon Earth suffer those to be about him, as Servants, who he knows beforehand are his Enemies, or perhaps he has prov'd them so; and who, in consequence of their Enmity, would undoubtedly embrace all Opportunities to deceive, abuse, and betray him? And this is manifestly the Case, respecting the Enemies of the Crown. Well, after his Majesty has made Choice of his Servants, the *Freeholders* and legal *Electors* throughout the *Kingdom*, have a right to judge for themselves, whether these Gentlemen, having found favour at Court, are now become, (on that Account) more, or less, or still alike capable and inclin'd, faithfully to represent them and serve them in *Parliament*; and according to their Judgment in this Case, they proceed, either to re-elect them, or choose others in their Room. This being the Case, where is the Reasonableness of abridging the *Liberty* either of the *Sovereign* or the *Subject*, in the choice of these their Servants, in these different Capacities? Is any Man's Loyalty and Fidelity to his King, inconsistent with, or destructive of his Love and Fidelity to his Country? No; 'tis that detestable Distinction between *Court* and *Country-Interest*, that affords a Foundation for such a surmise: Banish but this from your Mouths and your Minds.

Minds, (as it justly deserves) and I see no Reason you have to be afraid of choosing any Gentleman in Place to represent you at Westminster; provided his Character be honourable, and his Person and Capacity in other Respects recommending*.

SOME may hope to prefer themselves to a considerable share of your Esteem, by haranguing upon *Bribery* and *Corruption*, *National-Debts*, *Taxes* and *Standing-Armies*. These are some of the favourite Topicks of our Times, and on which our *little Wits* delightfully enlarge. Here they exert their Talents, display their Parts, and expatiate upon these Subjects in the several Branches: And Numbers are dispos'd to listen attentively hereunto; as there is something inviting, nay even ensnaring in the Subjects themselves; and the very mention of them with Accents of dislike, and in the Tone of a Complaint, tends to recommend the Speaker, as a Man of Virtue and Integrity, to a shallow and superficial Observer: To

* There is reason to think some Persons are as much unduly influenc'd to Vote against the C—rt in *hope* of *Places*, as others to Vote for it, because they already possess them: Some have found from Experience, that Places to their liking were not to be obtain'd by siding with the M——ry; and can we blame them for trying what a different Course would do for them? Cou'd they get the Disposal of Places into their own Hands, or the Hands of their Friends, it would then appear they have not opposed for nothing.

such as these, he wou'd seem worthy of present Promotion and Honour.

CORRUPTION is indeed a great Evil; and far be it from me to attempt an Extenuation of it: I cannot say it is not at all used at Court, but I am pretty sure it is shamefully practised in the Country *; and that by those who have taken abundance of Pains to be thought Friends to their Country, and Strangers, yea Enemies to Corruption. I question not but your own Eyes and Ears have born Testimony to various extravagant Treats from Gentlemen around you, to engage the thoughtless Multitude in their Favour; but I am really afraid it is too little consider'd, how much our *Enemies Abroad* may be at the Bottom of this vigorous Opposition to the British Court; and I am well assur'd it wou'd heartily grieve *you* hereafter, shou'd

* Many *Gentlemen* can complain of and practise Corruption with alike Freedom and Facility; yea, with a sort of Decency and Address. If they rail against Corruption, it is (you must suppose) because they hate it;—if they make Use of it,—it is for the good of their *Country*,—to set themselves upon a level with their Opposers,—to fight them at their own Weapons, &c. And if these *upright hearted Gentlemen* cou'd but once make the Day their own,—then, (if we will believe them) farewell Corruption for ever. In the while—see the wondrous Power of modern Patriotism!—who cou'd have thought it shou'd so far change the Nature of Things?—But thus it is in these Times,—That which is highly *Criminal* in a *C-t-r*, becomes *Commendable* in a *P-t-r-t.*

you see Cause to conclude a Majority of *Ja---its* and *T---ies* are gotten into the Pa---li---nt H---se, under the prevailing influence of *Foreign Gold*:---And this after concern will lie heavier still upon you, if you shou'd now contribute hereunto, and be helping on that unhappy Influence.

As to *National Debts*, they are indeed great, but I have known them greater; and I firmly believe they both might and wou'd have been now less than they are, had it not been for our modern *Patriot-Proceedings*. *Payments* and *Taxes*, 'tis true bear hard; but I chearfully pay my *Quota* to them, and hope you do the like*. A *Standing-Army*, (if it must be so call'd) does not disagreeably affect me: I am no way apprehensive my Person will ever be molested, my Property infring'd, or my Liberty lessen'd hereby: Nay, in these Respects I am morally certain I have been protected by the *Army*; and from it I firmly hope for Protection still. I am in no Fear of being disagreeably under an *Army-Government*, (as at present model'd, and officer'd) but I am not without Fear of

* *Taxes* are indeed great, and under these there are many already affect to groan, tho' it wou'd better become them to retrench their *Luxury*;—however in my poor Opinion, to distress the Gov---t is not the way to alleviate our Burdens, lessen our Payments, or ease our Complaints; but rather to increase them.

falling under a *Patriot-Government*; and sure I have some Reason on my side. Who have fomented Differences, widen'd our Breaches, irritated Mobs, abett'd Riots, &c. were not these the *Patriots*? On the other Hand, who have opposed the riotous Proceedings of the lawless Multitude, and protected the Property of the Subjects of *Great-Britain*; Was it not the *Army*?---- The *Mob* are mainly the *People*, to whom the *Faction* have frequently appeal'd, and from whom mighty Matters are expected: So that whilst we have such factious *Patriots*, (such *Incendiaries* rather) in being, and such *Proceedings* on foot, to me it seems exceeding necessary we shou'd have an *Army* too; and that this *Army* shou'd be *increased* in Proportion to the number of such *Patriots* and their *Adherents**. This it is own'd is an Expence to the whole Nation; but remember who they are that have made it a *necessary one*; even those for the most part, who loudly and delightfully declaim against a *Standing Army*. Let us my Friends, contentedly bear our Part in this Expence;----If as Matters at present stand, we cannot on safe Ground ex-

* *Affassinating Designs* have been plain'y push'd for by the *Patriot-Party* a great while, tho' they have not as yet been able to put them into Execution;—Thanks to them, they have timely discover'd their *Good-will* thereunto.

pect Protection upon easier Terms, let us be willing in this way to pay freely for it. But to proceed one Step farther:

SOME Gentlemen may imagine they have already deserv'd and engag'd your Favour, by appearing for you in the Case of the *Test Act*, &c. This is indeed a tender Point, and I cou'd willingly have pass'd it by in Silence; and nothing shou'd have prevented me in this, had I not Reason to think this suppos'd piece of Service might have too powerful an Influence upon some of you. And since I see it needful to say something on this Head, I shall speak my Mind with usual Freedom. I know some of our Friends have been greatly concern'd for, and have earnestly sought after the taking off of the *Test Act*, &c.----I know a great deal hath been said and wrote, to shew the Reasonableness of removing all *incapacitating Laws* from all loyal, faithful, and deserving Subjects to the *British Crown*; insomuch, that some who are not *Dissenters*, have allow'd the best share of the Argument lies on our side of the Question;----That the Thing we contend for, (consider'd in itself, and without regard to Consequents) is just, and ought to take Place. Upon the other Hand, I have met with a great deal said against it, and well said too; and I know some *Gentlemen* who are utterly

terly averse to all Oppression and Persecution, for Religion and Conscience sake, in all Forms and Degrees; who yet by no Means can think the repealing of these Laws expedient and proper. I crave leave my *Brethren* to remark one Thing more: 'Tis natural for us to judge favourably, and even partially in our own Cause; we shou'd therefore be Cautious, as we wou'd be strictly Just, and always make some Allowance for this:----We shou'd often turn the Tables, and suppose the Cases of others, our own. Let me but imagine my self to be a Member of the *Church of England*, well affected, and strongly attach'd to her *Doctrines, Discipline, and whole Constitution*, perhaps the *Rationality* of removing the above Laws, might not appear to me in so strong a Light, as it was wont to do. I have no Design against any of you my *Fellow-Dissenters*, in what I have here advanc'd;----But let not any of us be too much chagrin'd at our Disappointment; nor too highly resent the Conduct of any who may have contributed to it; nor over-rate the supposed Friendship of those Gentlemen who stood by us in that Affair. I question not but some might do it from Principle, and a settled Conviction of the appearing Equity of our Cause; but I believe if the Matter be well look'd into, it will

will appear, there are others, who join'd them in this, that much more design'd to serve *themselves*, than to serve *us* in it. It is a Matter of no doubt with me, but that some *Gentlemen* who then voted for us, and it may be have spoken on our side, within Doors and without; who yet would have voted, and *speeched* it against us, had there been any probability of our gaining the point we are persuing. They had only to learn upon which side the Debate, a few Persons, or even one *single Person* wou'd appear; from whence they cou'd Conjecture how the matter wou'd end;--- and then they were fully at Liberty to stickle on our side as much as they thought proper, without *Danger* of doing us any Good; and herein, to serve a double Design at once, *viz.* treacherously courting our Favour as *Dissenters* against a Time of Need;---and at the same Season, were opposing some, whom they are pleas'd to account their inveterate Enemies. Consider the Characters of the Persons I am pointing out, and their religious Principles, (if they have any) and then judge whether they can be thought *real Friends* to the *Dissenters*: Nay, whether they are not much more likely, (shou'd Times favour them) to multiply incapacitating Laws upon

upon us, than to take off those that remain yet in Force.

It has long since been pretended, " That all persecuting Principles, are laid aside, and there is now a perfect *Coalition* of *Parties*;" Much like *Reynard's* pretence to the *Cock*, in the *Fable**, and as much to be relied upon. Every Man may think for himself; and we know what has been attempted against us, when some Persons have been in Power: And for my part I expect,---That *Fa--ite* and *T--ry Principles* will produce correspondent *Practices*, whenever accompanied with a sufficiency of *Power*: And I wou'd no more trust these Persons with the Disposal of my Property and Liberty, civil or religious, than I wou'd trust the *Dissertator upon Parties* himself†: No, notwithstanding their present, appearing, pacifick Temper, who have assuredly Cunning enough to conceal their Inclinations, till a convenient Season offers for the Discovery of them.

* The Fox espying a Cock perched on high, and intirely out of his reach; in order to decoy him down, claim'd kindred with him; and at the same time suggested, — That there was a Peace proclaim'd between all kind of Birds and Beasts, and that they were for the future to forbear all Hostilities on all Sides and to live in the utmost Harmony, &c. Vid. Fab. cxxvii. of Croxall's Collect.

† Lord Bol——ke.

SHALL it ever be truly said of us *Dissenters* that we are duped, choused and cheated by the Craft and Subtilty of Men lying in wait to deceive? By Men who seek to delude us, and divide the *Whig-Interest*, to make their own Advantage? Shall we contribute to place such Men easy in the Saddle, who in all Probability when well mounted, will attempt to ride over us *?

PERHAPS the above Suggestions, with some other Passages, may seem harsh; but they are not (I fear) altogether Groundless; and the Design of the whole is to excite *All*, and *each* of us as *Dissenters*, to have our Eyes about us, and consider well what we are doing. Many among those to whom this *Address* is directed, can see farther into Things than the Writer hereof will pretend to;----Yet to them Hints may be Useful. I wish some Person more equal to the Design, had engag'd in this small Undertaking; but I was not Apprehensive there was any thing of this kind in doing; and tho' sensible of my own Inability, was not willing it shou'd remain wholly undone. If my Fears that have put me upon it, appear to Persons of deeper Penetration, to

* We may do much better without the Test-Act being remov'd, than with having our Meeting-Houses pull'd down, and our Ministers driven into Corners.

be chimerical and causeless, I shou'd glad-
ly be convinc'd of this my self; and it
will afford me some sort of Satisfaction to
find I have employ'd but few Hours in
beating the Air.

To draw towards a Conclusion ;----Let us fix our Eyes upon Gentlemen of generous and catholick Principles to represent and serve us in *Parliament*, so far as our Interest will go; and upon no Account be prevail'd with to favour others in this Way, for the sake of any flight Service they may in Appearance already have done us, or may yet promise hereafter to do. Supposing them true to their Word, it will by no means be an Equivalent to, what we may, and likely must suffer by placing them in Power, who are our real Enemies in their Hearts.

CHOOSE *Lovers* of *Liberty*, who have imbib'd the Principles thereof, and not such who are only *talkers* of Liberty, and verbal contenders for it. We have many calling aloud for Liberty at this Day *: A Liberty

to

* I beg Leave in this place once for all, to declare,—I am no way prejudic'd against, or bear any ill will to any one Person upon Earth, high or low :—That I have not given any hint at a disagreeable Character, but what will suit several Persons, (excepting the Writer of the *Common-Sense*) :—That I have not knowingly mis-represented one *Fact*, or attempted to varnish over one *Crime*, that does appear to me

to frame our *Constitution* afresh, and new-model the *Government*; ----A Liberty to do what they list, and controul whom they please; ----A Liberty of exercising a sort of despotic Power, and of carrying all before them: ----In a word, The Liberty many Persons seem to be driving at, would be Tyranny and Slavery to *some*, ----'twould be misrule, Anarchy and Confusion to *All*, but themselves. These noisy Advocates for Liberty, do eminently enjoy it, and at the same time do abundantly abuse it; and those who thus abuse Liberty when *out of Power*, it is hard to imagine they wou'd use it a-right, if they were *in*. Do not suffer yourselves to be carried away by mere Sounds and Words, without any suitable Sense or Meaning attach'd to them. Our *Language* as well as our *Liberty* is now basely abused: Words are Wind, and accounted of as next to nothing: They are used at

in such a Light:—And was it in my Power, I wou'd not endeavour to screen or excuse any Man evidently guilty, altho' he were ever so great.—But it is a thousand times easier to draw up heavy and general Charges against a faithful M——r, than to prove them.—Let me here add,—It is matter of real Concern to me that the *Gentlemen* in the Opposition have acted a part so very mean and disagreeable, in a vast Variety of Instances; and I am also sorry, that appearing national Circumstances, have in a sort compel'd me to point out any of them:—It was to me an unpleasing Task, but for some Reasons, as already hinted, I cou'd not avoid it.

Pleasure to serve a Turn, with too little regard to *Sincerity* and *Truth*.

CHOOSE Gentlemen of *Integrity* and *Candour*; of cool Heads and honest Hearts, whose Spirits and Tempers are turn'd for *Peace*: These are most likely (under GOD) to deliver us from our Delusions, to heal our Divisions, and to repair the Breaches in our *Israel*, most unseasonably widen'd by many among our selves. If it be said,---- such *Gentlemen* as above are hard to be found, being few in Number ;---I say so too, the more is our unhappines at present ; But this makes way for one Word more,

LET us not be forward to change our present Representatives, where we have not a considerable Certainty of mending them. We are naturally desirous of Changes, but it is easy to change for the worse, and often the Case *. To close all, The Case is weighty and important ; Let us seek divine Direction in our Proceeding herein ; Use the lawful Means for the continuance of our Peace and Safety, becoming *ration-*

* What good we as *Dissenters* can promise our selves by a Change of the *M——ry*, I cannot well conceive : We are now agreeably protected in our Persons and Properties, in the free exercise and enjoyment of our Liberty, and Religion ; and I expect nothing more under any Alteration : — And shou'd I live to see *One*, shall think my self well off, if I then enjoy so much.

al Beings, Englishmen, real Christians, and true Protestants; and after this, trust in the LORD who disposes of all Events, for Success in this weighty Affair.

THESE crude Conceptions in a rustick Dress, are all I at present shall trouble you with; and subscribe my self,----

(*Gentlemen and Others*)

Your faithful Friend

and *Fellow-Subject.*

